

Remarks

Claims 1-11, 18-21 and 31-36 are pending and stand rejected in the instant application. The Specification is amended herewith to update the cross-reference to related applications. The current rejections are addressed as follows:

Specification Objection

The specification is objected to for not reciting an updated status for related application 09/843,929. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of that objection because the specification as amended specifies that Application 09/843,929 is now U.S. Patent No. 6,635,493.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-11, 18-21 and 31-36 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,225,131. Additionally, claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 31-36 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,635,493.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections in light of the terminal disclaimers under 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) enclosed herewith. The fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.20(d) for each terminal disclaimer is also enclosed.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendment and discussion, applicants request withdrawal of all rejections and objections and passage of the claims to allowance. If there are any minor matters preventing that result, applicants authorize Examiner Chin to contact the undersigned attorney.

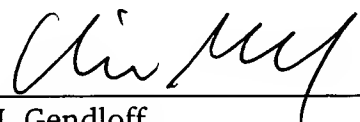
Appl. No. 09/997,213
Amdt. dated August 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 19, 2004

It is believed that the enclosed check for \$220.00 is all that is required with this Reply. However, if there are any additional unanticipated fees, the PTO may withdraw those fees from Deposit Account No. 01-1785. Overpayments may also be credited to Deposit Account No. 01-1785.

Respectfully submitted

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